and Hydraulic Excavator ordered and procured by the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited;

(b) the exact amount of difference in prices per unit capacity of each of the equipments;

(c) whether the NMDC Limited could not ascertain the actual working results of hydraulic excavator while the RRERS had been working smoothly with the company over the past several years;

(d) whether Government would take initiative for ascertaining actual reason for such a large number of order given for hydraulic excavators; and

(e) in what respect the Russian Electric Rope Showels working is likely to be deemed unsatisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The landed cost of the Russian Electric Rope Showel with 10 Cubic metre bucket capacity, acquired by the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) is Rs. 380 lakhs while in the case of a Hydraulic excavator with 5.5 cubic metre bucket capacity procured by NMDC, the landed cost is Rs. 552 lakhs.

(b) Although the difference in prices is about Rs. 55 lakhs per cubic metre bucket capacity, various factors such as the level of technology, the prime mover (viz. whether the equipment is diesel powered or electrically powered), type of material to be handled, overall economics and productivity etc. are taken into account while determining the reasonableness of prices of various models of showels and Hydraulic excavators.

(c) The company has reported that before procurement, a high level study team had ascertained the performance of hydraulic excavators being used in the mechanised mines of other users i.e. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO).

(d) The company has intimated that during the last 5 years, it has purchased eleven numbers of excavators and shovels, which include only 3 nos. of Hydraulic excavators.

(e) Although the performance of the Russian Rope electric shovels procured directly from the original manufacturers is not reported to be unsatisfactory, NMDC faced serious problems in maintaining them due to lack of timely supply of spare parts from Russia and therefore had to look for alternatives, Hydraulic excavators are being preferred by the Company as they are the latest state-of-the art technology in mining equipment and hence more productive.

New steel plants in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

6147. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new steel plants are proposed to be set up in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether these are in the private or public sector; and

(c) what are the names of the units or companies which have proposed to set up steel plants in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, the Iron and Steel has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector, and also exempted from the provisions of compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 subject to certain locational restrictions.

While no steel plant is proposed to be set up by the Central Government in the public sector, the following steel plants are being set up in the process of firming up project parameters in the

States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra:—

State	Name of the unit
Andhra Pradesh	(i) Kumar's Metallurgical Corpn. Ltd.
	(ii) M/s. Vijayanagram Steel Plant (ARM Limited).
	(iii) Sujana Metal India Limited.
Maharashtra	(i) M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited.
	(ii) M/s. Lloyds Steel Ind. Limited.
	(iii) M/s. Usha Ispat Limited.

Review of taxation proposals concerning Steel Industry

6148. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel industry as well as the Ministry of Steel has asked for the review of the taxation proposals announced in the latest annual budget; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details indicating the adverse effect of the import duty reduction and excise increase on various products of steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Some of the salient features of the Budget for 1994-95 concerning the steel industry are:—

(i) Reduction in maximum rate of customs duty on import of steel items to 50 per cent. (As a result the duty on bars and rods, structurals, GP/GC sheets has been reduced from 85 per cent to 50 per cent, and on CR coils and tinplates from 75 per cent to 50 per cent).

(ii) Reduction in duty on HR Coils from 50 per cent to 40 per cent, and on steel melting scrap from 12.5 per cent to 10 per cent (subsequently further reduced to 5 per cent).

(iii) Change in excise duty on all steel items having specific rate to advalorem rate (15 per cent).

(iv) Increase in advalorem rate of excise duty on flat products from 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent.

Some of the measures such as reduction in customs duty on steel melting scrap have been beneficial to the steel industry. However, representations have been received from various sections of the industry that reduction in customs duty will make some of the domestic products like CR Coils, plates and tinplates uncompetitive against imports. Representations have also been received that increase in excise duty will burden the steel industry and result in increase in prices of steel. These representations are under consideration of the Government

गांव मोची बाग, नई दिल्ली में सम्पत्तियों को सील किया जाना

6149. श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण ने गांव